

EDWARD MADDEN.

JUNE 22, 1898.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. PRITCHARD, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3232.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3232) granting a pension to Edward Madden, have examined the same and report:

The records of the War Department show that this soldier was enrolled March 14, 1865, in Company F, Seventh West Virginia Infantry, and was mustered out with company July 1, 1865.

September 5, 1890, he applied for pension under the act of June 27, 1890, alleging chronic sore eyes, rheumatism, and deafness of left ear. This claim was allowed, and he has been pensioned at \$12 per month since date of filing said claim, for disease of eyes.

He was examined July 29, 1891, the board reporting as follows:

There is present chronic conjunctivitis in a very aggravated form. Pus is constantly running from the eyes. The corneas are opaque. The iris is contracted and does not respond to light. There is ectropion of both lower lids. Both lachrymal ducts are closed. Vision is two two-hundredths in both eyes. He can not get about without assistance. There is tenderness in dorsal muscles, extending into shoulder joints. There is considerable roughness in both shoulder joints. Heart, normal. Hearing, normal. \* \* \* He is unable to perform any manual labor.

In an affidavit filed in the Pension Office June 15, 1892, claimant alleges that when examined his sight was failing considerably, but at present has become so much worse that he is almost entirely blind. He also alleges that he is in indigent circumstances.

It will be observed that this claimant served only three months in the Army, and that he has never alleged any disability as a result of such service. The pension he is now drawing is under the act of June 27, 1890, so that any increase allowed is a gratuity. That he is practically blind is abundantly proven, Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, giving assurances to that effect as a matter of personal knowledge. Your committee recommend the passage of the following substitute for the original bill:

Strike out all after the enacting clause, and insert:

That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place on the pension roll, subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws, the name of Edward Madden, late private, Company F, Seventh Regiment West Virginia Volunteer Infantry, and pay him a pension at the rate of twenty-four dollars per month in lieu of that he is now receiving.

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill granting an increase of pension to Edward Madden."